

Wool & East Stoke Parish Newsletter - Spring 2021

Contact details of WPB Clergy are on the Easter card

The Parochial Church Council
(comprising of Wool and East Stoke,
part of the West Purbeck Benefice)



Letter from Revd Jenny Alidina - Interim Minister

It seems extraordinary that we are in our third lockdown a year on from the first one. But as proof of our resilient natures, we have coped with not being able to hug each other, keeping our distance, wearing masks and learning how to wash our hands properly. Who knew? As bright spring flowers start to appear in my garden and with my arm aching from my first Covid jab, I have a sense that we are emerging from a dark time and looking forward to a brighter future. I hope you feel the same.

Even in better times however, we still grieve the loss of loved ones and at Holy Rood we are missing the presence of dear Revd Carol Langford who is gravely ill, and our love and prayers are with her and her family.

As you know the churches are closed in the Benefice at the moment, but Easter is the start of us opening up again. We are having a service in the churchyard on Good Friday at 10:30 where we can sing at the tops of our voices and will be in church for Easter Sunday Holy Communion at 9:00 am. We are distributing Holy Week Reflection bags for those who can't get to Church or get online to help people remember this special week. Lockdown has given us the opportunity to try new ways of worship and online services have proved remarkably popular with between 80 – 100 people joining us across our new benefice and further afield every week. This is clearly a very different experience from worshipping in an ancient building, however, there are bonuses. Someone commented that it was nice to see people's faces rather than the backs of their heads. Joining in church from the comfort of one's own front room and singing away has a certain charm and it has helped our new benefice get to know each other much faster than we would have sat in different churches. As we became more confident, we have introduced Messy Church online which has blossomed, and we have 58 people attending our online Alpha course.

Easter speaks to us of new resurrected life, one that is similar yet different to the life before. This is something we are promised after death – a new

life. For those who have lost loved ones, it is a message of hope that those dearest to them carry on and are known, loved and happy. At Easter we remember all that Jesus went through on the cross willingly for us so that we too can experience new and everlasting life with Him. The glorious Easter refrain that “Christ is risen” is not just for the future but also for here and now. For we can experience some of this new life every day by just following Jesus.

The West Purbeck Benefice

On 29th March 2020 our Parish formally became part of a Benefice of seven churches, sharing clergy and administration. These are: Holy Rood, Wool; St John the Baptist, Bere Regis; St Laurence, Affpuddle; Holy Trinity, West Lulworth; St Andrew, East Lulworth; St Christopher, Winfrith; St Nicholas, Chaldon Herring.



Church Services across the West Purbeck Benefice

Easter Church Services for the West Purbeck Benefice are on the Easter card.

The pattern of services for the future will be arranged subject to government guideline

Messy Church Messy Church has proved very popular online with over 40 children attending on the last Sunday of the month at 4pm. This will continue online for the time being.

Please contact **Pat Wharf** using the email **patswiftwharf@outlook.com** for the Zoom link!

To find out all about our services ask to receive the weekly **West Purbeck Link** (formerly known as the Pewsheet). A paper copy of the weekly WPB Link will be available in Holy Rood Church once it reopens. Please email **westpurbeckoffice@gmail.com** to be added to our mailing list and to receive the zoom link for online worship.

Events

Like all events, as soon as they are able to be held in church or anywhere else you will be notified via the church website which has all the latest news **<http://holyroodwool.org/index.htm>**. Most people will know someone with the internet so maybe they can pass on the information.

Please contact the **church office 07729484866** if you don't have access to a computer.

Christmas 2020

Over the Christmas period, the church was open daily for anyone to have a prayerful moment and/or view the Crib and the Christmas decorations. The Carol Service—we started off outside singing 'O Come all ye Faithful' and then moved indoors for readings and to listen to choral music, carols and live organ music voluntaries played by Dr John Matthews. We finished outside singing 'Silent Night'. We did a similar format for our Midnight Holy Communion on Christmas Eve. Online we had the delight of singing all our favourite carols together over the Christmas season with a congregation of over 100 people.

Our Church Christmas tree outside the D'Urberville Centre, brought further cheer to the village. All were appreciated by so many people. If you missed the church decorations there are photos on the website.

From the Church Registers and others that are known in the Parish

Funerals and Burials since May 2020 *'May They Rest in Peace'*

A Osgood 2019, G White 9/6/20, P Sage 3/9/20, G Stickland 1/8/20, E Ives 26/8/20, R Lovelass 8/9/20,

R Lawlor 1/10/20, S Baker 30/11/20, E Hardy 10/12/20, V Tarrant 3/1/21, S. Davis 13/1/21, N Perkins 19/1/21, J Goddard 3/2/21, M King 16/2/21.

Marriages (1) - I Foot and A Barker, we wish Alison and Ian a very happy future together.

Baptisms (0)

Wool Primary School

It has certainly been a busy half term for all at Wool Primary and the whole school community has continued to live out our Christian values both when learning at home and also at school. Staff have delivered live teaching sessions via a virtual platform whilst still providing for keyworker and vulnerable children on the school site, and children have got used to learning remotely and submitting assignments online. On 1st February we also became part of the Coastal Learning Partnership multi-academy trust and are looking forward to collaborating with colleagues in other settings. The last couple of months have reflected just how much we can all achieve when we have faith, aspiration and perseverance. A particular highlight each week is our virtual Celebrations where children and adults

are awarded certificates and sometimes even a hot chocolate with marshmallows! I am incredibly proud of the whole of our school community and am looking forward to welcoming everybody back onto the school site again soon!

E Griffiths Headteacher

Repair to our church bell frame

We have received a large grant from the Erskine Muton Trust to supplement all our fundraising money. We now have enough to complete the repairs needed to the bell frame. Work will start as soon as Covid rules allow. Thank you all for your generous contributions.

Giving to the church

Holy Rood Church is YOUR parish church and so many people wish to help maintain this heritage building with its historic bells and Parish Churchyard. Many give monthly or quarterly via the Parish Giving Scheme. Others send via BACs, cheques or cash when they can. Every penny is welcome. Thank you everyone for your generous contributions. For forms or details please contact: Treasurer Toni on 01929 462673.

Annual Parochial Church Meeting via Zoom on Sunday 18th April at 12.15pm. The notice will be placed in the church porch and online from the ***Saturday 3rd April 2021***. The church Electoral Roll will be displayed in the porch and online 14 days before the meeting.

Farewell to Brenda and John Edwards

We say farewell to Brenda and John Edwards who are moving from the area. Brenda has been a Church Warden and a member of the PCC for many years, working tirelessly in many roles and will be sadly missed. The PCC, along with many in the Parish, would like to wish them both all the very best in their new home and we look forward to seeing them when they visit us, once churches open up again.

Thank you also to **Kim Moss** who is leaving the PCC after a few years and we welcome **Kevin Davies** as a prospective new member of the PCC along with **Rod Webb** who will also be Church Warden... all elections take place at the Parishioners meeting held prior to the APCM on Sunday 18th April.

Sue Burroughs (PCC Secretary)

Please stay safe and we hope to see you very soon.